

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A gear mechanism comprising a means to protect against wrapping that is disposed radially outwardly of a portion of a shaft that is driven by said gear mechanism, wherein said means to protect against wrapping extends between two side components that are disposed on said shaft portion and wherein said means to protect against wrapping is rotatable about such shaft portion.
2. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said means to protect against wrapping is disposed between said two side components with axial play.
3. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said two side components are fixedly disposed on said shaft portion.
4. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 3, wherein said means to protect against wrapping is held in a frictional manner between said two side components.
5. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said means to protect against wrapping is disposed in a centered manner relative to said shaft portion.
6. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 5, wherein centering is effected by an abutment that is fixedly connected with said shaft portion.

7. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the centering is effected by at least one collar that is fixedly connected with said means to protect against wrapping.

8. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said side components is a tiller star.

9. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 8, wherein both of said side components are two adjacent tiller stars that are disposed on one side of a housing of said gear mechanism.

10. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 1, wherein one of said side components is connected with a housing of said gear mechanism, and wherein said housing is not moved.

11. (original) A gear mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said means to protect against wrapping is a cylindrical sleeve.

12. (new) A gear mechanism comprising a means to protect against wrapping that is disposed radially outwardly of a portion of a shaft that is driven by said gear mechanism, wherein said means to protect against wrapping extends between two side components that are disposed on said shaft portion,

wherein said means to protect against wrapping is rotatable about such shaft portion, wherein said means to protect against wrapping is disposed in a centered manner relative to said shaft portion, and

wherein centering is effected by an abutment that is fixedly connected with said shaft portion.